

### **Questions #3 & #4 submitted by committee member Tenny:**

3. Please outline, in detail, the projected cost of licensure and maintenance of certification for Surgical Technologists, and whom would cover these costs.

4. It is my understanding that necessary local CEU is currently insufficient to meet the requirements for Surgical Technologists. Will there be any assurance that enough cost-effective continuing education will be locally available in the future, even for those who choose not to belong to the AST?

It will be up to the board that administers the license for the surgical technologist in the state of Nebraska to determine the cost of maintaining licensure as well as the renewal period. It has been recommended that this board adopts the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) standards for renewal and competency set at 60 continuing education credits in a four year period. The individual surgical technologist will cover the costs independently to maintain licensure and certification. Some facilities may choose to offer the benefit of providing their employees compensation to cover the cost associated with continuing education however this will not be required.

There are many opportunities available to surgical technologists to obtain the required continuing education credits.

### **Costs Associated with Certification of Surgical Technologists**

AST Membership - \$80 per year

Cost of Certification Exam when taking for the first time

\$190 for AST Members

\$290 for non-AST members

\$160 for students

Cost to retake the Certification Exam (if allowed to expire) - \$499

### **Continuing Education Credit Information**

CE Credit Fees Apply Only to Commercial Providers

The vast majority of all CE credits processed by AST for CSTs and CSFAs are earned through one or more of the following. **None of these are subject to a processing fee.**

- AST Distance CE (journal tests or CE packages, 1-2 credits)
- Hospital In-services (free)
- Live lectures at AST state assemblies, national conference and others, such as ACS Congress
- College Courses

CE credit fees only apply to a very small percentage of credits earned through commercial providers (non-approved AST credits) due to the increased time and resources required to research and assess CE credits earned through those providers, particularly those CE credits offered by commercial businesses that contract with healthcare facilities.

Number of CE Credits Processing Fee

* 1- 10	\$15
*11-20	\$30
*21-30	\$45
*31-40	\$60
*41-50	\$75
*51+	\$90

**Nonmembers:** \$400 processing fee (Includes one-year AST membership), plus any additional fees listed above.

State Assembly Workshops held bi-annually in various locations throughout the state–

Approximate registration cost for state assembly workshops:

AST Members - \$60 for 6 CEU (includes breakfast and lunch)

Non-AST Members - \$70 for 6 CEU (includes breakfast and lunch)

AST CEUs: Examples would be but not limited to magazine articles, archived articles online

\$6 for AST members per credit

\$10 for non-AST members per credit

**AST offers Online: AST Member CE Credit Package Deals**

- 3 Free Online CE Credits Annually (4 years/12 Free Credits)
- AST Credit Discount Package #1 – 21 Credits - \$35 (\$1.66/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #2 – 18 Credits - \$30 (\$1.66/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #3 – Neurosurgical – 10 Credits - \$15 (\$1.50/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #4 – Orthopedic – 10 Credits - \$15 (\$1.50/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #5 – General – 12 Credits - \$19 (\$1.58/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #6 – General – 12 Credits - \$19 (\$1.58/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #7 – 17 Credits - \$29 (\$1.71/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #8 – 8 Credits - \$13 (\$1.62/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #9 – 17 Credits - \$29 (\$1.71/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #10 – 22 Credits - \$37 (\$1.68/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #11 – 22 Credits - \$37 (\$1.68/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #12 – 13 Credits - \$21 (\$1.62/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #13 – 17.5 Credits - \$29 (\$1.66/credit)
- AST Credit Discount Package #14 – access online variable
- AST Credit Discount Package #15 – 16.5 Credits - \$27 (\$1.64/credit)

*Each AST CE Credit Package may only be submitted once in a 10-year period.*

A surgical technologist's certification cycle is 4 years. To renew certification:

- An AST member will need to submit at least 60 continuing education credits to AST as well as submit a renewal application and \$50 processing fee to NBSTSA.
- A non-AST member will need to submit at least 60 continuing education credits to AST and pay a \$400 processing fee which includes a one year AST membership as well as submit a renewal application and \$60 processing fee to NBSTSA.

A surgical technologist who is a member of AST who works in a facility that provides monthly in-services could utilize the following method to maintain certification:

- Attend all monthly in-services in a four year period which equals 48 continuing education credits, these credits are provided to the employee free of charge and can be submitted to AST without being subject to additional processing fees
- Complete the three free continuing education credits that are offered by AST annually which equals 12 continuing education credits
- Maintain AST membership at an annual rate of \$80 (\$71 of which is tax deductible) for 4 years which is \$360
- Pay \$50 processing fee to NBSTSA when submitting renewal application
- The total cost for this surgical technologist to maintain certification is \$410 every 4 years or \$102 per year

A surgical technologist who is not a member of AST who works in a facility that provides monthly in-services could utilize the following method to maintain certification:

- Attend all monthly in-services in a four year period which equals 48 continuing education credits, these credits are provided to the employee free of charge and can be submitted to AST without being subject to additional processing fees
- Complete 12 additional continuing education credits that are AST approved from various sources that average approximately \$10 per credit for a total of \$120
- Pay \$400 processing fee to AST when submitting continuing education credits
- Pay \$60 processing fee to NBSTSA when submitting renewal application
- The total cost for this surgical technologist to maintain certification is \$580 every 4 years